

I CLAIM:

1. An electronic data storage medium adapted to be accessed by a data terminal, said electronic data storage medium comprising:

5. a memory device for storing a data file and fingerprint reference data obtained by scanning a fingerprint of a person authorized to access the data file;

a fingerprint sensor adapted to scan a fingerprint of a user of said electronic data storage medium and to generate fingerprint scan data;

an input/output interface circuit activable so as to establish communication with the data terminal; and

a processing unit connected to said memory device, said fingerprint sensor and said input/output interface circuit, said processing unit being operable selectively in

a programming mode, where said processing unit activates said input/output interface circuit to receive the data file and the fingerprint reference data from the data terminal, and to store the data file and the fingerprint reference data in said memory device, and

a data retrieving mode, where said processing unit receives the fingerprint scan data from said fingerprint sensor, compares the fingerprint scan data with the fingerprint reference data in said memory

device to verify if the user of said electronic data storage medium is authorized to access the data file stored in said memory device, and activates said input/output interface circuit to transmit the data 5 file to the data terminal upon verifying that the user of said electronic data storage medium is authorized to access the data file stored in said memory device.

2. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 1, further comprising a card body on which said memory 10 device, said fingerprint sensor, said input/output interface circuit and said processing unit are mounted.

3. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 2, further comprising a power source mounted on said card body and connected to said processing unit for 15 supplying electrical power thereto.

4. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein said memory device is a flash memory device.

5. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein said processing unit stores the data file and 20 the fingerprint reference data in said memory device in a compressed format.

6. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 1, further comprising a function key set connected to said processing unit and operable so as to initiate 25 operation of said processing unit in a selected one of the programming and data retrieving modes.

7. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 1,

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wherein said processing unit is further operable selectively in a data resetting mode, where the data file and the fingerprint reference data are erased from said memory device.

5 8. The electronic data storage medium of Claim of 7, further comprising a function key set connected to said processing unit and operable so as to initiate operation of said processing unit in a selected one of the programming, data retrieving and data resetting modes.

10 9. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 8, wherein said memory device further stores a reference password therein, said function key set being operable to provide an input password to said processing unit, said processing unit comparing the input password with the reference password and initiating operation in the data resetting mode upon verifying that the input password corresponds with the reference password.

15 10. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 7, wherein said processing unit automatically initiates operation in the data resetting mode upon detecting that a preset time period has elapsed since storage of the data file and the fingerprint reference data in said memory device.

20 25 11. The electronic data storage medium of Claim 1, further comprising a display unit connected to and controlled by said processing unit for showing the data

file exchanged with the data terminal thereon.